

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete paragraph 33 and replace it with the following:

"33. The preferred form of alum is known as "papermakers" alum. "Paper makers" alum is a clear, light green to light yellow aqueous solution containing about 48.5% aluminum sulfate, on a dry basis. The chemical formula is Al₂(SO₄)₃•18 H₂O ~~Al₂(SO₄)₃•14 H₂O~~. Alum is also preferred because it tends to accelerate the rehydration of the hemihydrate crystals. Typically, about 0.10% of alum is used for rehydration of the hemihydrate to the dihydrate in the formed composite. For use as a crystal modifier in the present invention, about one liter of papermaker's alum per 100 gallons of gypsum/fiber slurry (about 0.4% solids based on the total slurry) is sufficient to overcome problems caused by impurities. The optimum dosage is sufficient alum to provide the highest board hardness."

The following is replacement paragraph 33, without any underlining:

"33. The preferred form of alum is known as "papermakers" alum. "Paper makers" alum is a clear, light green to light yellow aqueous solution containing about 48.5% aluminum sulfate, on a dry basis. The chemical formula is Al₂(SO₄)₃•18 H₂O. Alum is also preferred because it tends to accelerate the rehydration of the hemihydrate crystals. Typically, about 0.10% of alum is used for rehydration of the hemihydrate to the dihydrate in the formed composite. For

use as a crystal modifier in the present invention, about one liter of papermaker's alum per 100 gallons of gypsum/fiber slurry (about 0.4% solids based on the total slurry) is sufficient to overcome problems caused by impurities. The optimum dosage is sufficient alum to provide the highest board hardness."